

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 04020 201340Z  
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 MC-02 NSC-05 SP-02  
SS-15 L-03 H-01 IGA-02 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /073 W  
-----128710 201856Z /53-L

R 201230Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
TO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8562  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T KUWAIT 4020

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: MASS, KU, IR, UK  
SUBJECT: REPORTED "DIVERSION" TO KUWAIT OF BRITISH TANKS  
DESTINED TO IRAN

REF: (A) USCINCEUR 141600Z JUL 77 (EUCOM INTSUM CABLE  
(EISC) 133-77 OF JULY 14) (NOTAL), (B) TEHRAN 6369  
(NOTAL).

REF A REPORTED THAT THE SHAN OF IRAN TOLD  
OUR AMBASSADOR IN TEHRAN THAT IRAN "INTENDS TO DIVERT TO  
KUWAIT SOME OF THE CHIEFTAIN TANKS SCHEDULED FOR  
DELIVERY TO IRAN FROM THE UK," AND IT NOTED THAT THE DATT  
IN TEHRAN "BELIEVES...THAT THE PRIMARY REASON FOR  
THE SHAH'S ACTION IS TO UNDERMINE ANY SOVIET  
MILITARY EQUIPMENT CURRENTLY BEING PURCHASED BY KUWAIT."  
DELIVERY OF THE 165 CHIEFTAINS PURCHASED BY KUWAIT IN  
1976 BEGAN IN SEPTEMBER OF THAT YEAR AND TO DATE SOME  
25 TANKS ARE HER. THESE ARE AS MANY AS THE KUWAITI ARMY  
CAN INITIALLY ABOSRB AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT,  
FOR A TIME AT LEAST, THERE WERE INSUFFICIENT TRAINED

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 04020 201340Z

DRIVERS FOR THEM. WE DOUBT THAT THE GOK HAS BOUGHT  
OR AGREED TO ANY ADDITIONAL CHIEFTAINS, BUT WE WILL BE  
CHECKING INTO THIS. ALSO, WE ARE AWARE OF NO EVIDENCE  
THAT THE SOVIETS AND THE KUWAITIS HAVE DISCUSSED A TANK  
DEAL. IN VIEW OF THE LOGISTICAL NIGHTMARE WHICH THE  
ACQUISITION OF A SECOND TANK WEAPONS SYSTEM WOULD BE TO  
THE EIGHT-THOUSAND-MAN KUWAITI ARMY, AND THE CURRENT

KUWAITI RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT SOVIET ADVISORS, WE DO  
NOT BELIEVE THAT THE KUWAITIS WOULD BUY SOVIET TANKS.  
IT MAY WELL BE, HOWEVER, THAT KUWAIT IS CURRENTLY  
TAKING DELIVERY OF SOME CHIEFTAINS ORIGINALLY INTENDED  
FOR IRAN.  
MAESTRONE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PROCUREMENT, TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977KUWAIT04020  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770258-0241  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** KUWAIT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770739/aaaabhhq.tel  
**Line Count:** 68  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 2c250467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION PM  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1806104  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REPORTED \"DIVERSION\" TO KUWAIT OF BRITISH TANKS DESTINED TO IRAN  
**TAGS:** MASS, KU, IR, UK  
**To:** CINCEUR  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/2c250467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009